



TESTIMONY

Delivered by Tracy Wodatch, Vice President of Clinical and Regulatory Services
The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home

Before the Public Health Committee

March 20, 2013

Raised Bill No. 1070

**An Act Concerning School Nurse Staffing and Establishment of a School Nurse
Advisory Council**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Tracy Wodatch, Vice President of Clinical and Regulatory Services at the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home. I am also an RN with 30 years experience in home health, hospice, long term and acute care.

The Association represents 60 licensed and certified home health and hospice agencies that perform 5-million home health and community-based visits in our inner cities and rural Connecticut towns each year.

The CT Association for Healthcare at Home supports Raised Bill 1070, An Act Concerning Nurse Staffing and Establishment of a School Nurse Advisory Council; however, we ask that a school nurse from our provider agencies who offer school-based nursing be considered for a possible seat on the Advisory Council.

We agree that the staffing ratio of school nurses to students should be appropriate to the size and health needs of the student population in order to promote a healthy learning environment.

Several of our licensed home health agencies also provide school-based nursing through provider agreements. This is especially true for our smaller town-based agencies who are intimately involved at the community level both in the school systems and with the local public health departments.

Due to the expertise and lengthy commitment to our communities, we request that one of our provider agency school nurses be asked to be part of the advisory council as outlined in this bill.

Thank you and if you have any further questions, please contact me directly at Wodatch@cthealthcareathome.org or 203-774-4940.